

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Turkey

SUBJECT Arrests of Students and

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ORIGIN

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

This document is hereby regraded to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 11 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

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INFO. See below

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PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

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1. On 17 December by order of the Commander of the Istanbul Martial Law Zone, General Asin Tinaztepe, most of the socialistic formations and publications with communistic leanings were suspended. Some 44 editors and persons connected with local communistic publications were arrested and taken to the military prison.
2. These drastic measures are attributed not only to the government's desire to suppress covert agitations conducted by such elements, but also to end all opposition to the People's Party and to the attacks on the government.

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3. On 19 December twelve students were arrested. The police are searching for members of a secret communist organization known as the Progressive Youth of Turkey. The police are also rounding up certain Armenian intellectuals suspected of being in contact with the Soviet Legation. One of the more prominent persons arrested was Zekeriya Sertel, director of Tan. The police are also rounding up Leftist writers and editors in Anatolia and the southern provinces.

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Zekeriya Sertel was imprisoned early in January 1946 after the destruction of the Tan printing press by Turkish students on 4 December 1945. [REDACTED] which reports that other Turkish journalists had protested the treatment accorded Sertel while in prison.

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4. Turkish authorities admit privately that these arrests were made to put a stop to the distribution of communist propaganda and to clandestine activities engaged in on behalf of a foreign power to overthrow the present political order. Opposition quarters, in no way affiliated with communist activities, are very uneasy. Ahmet Emin Yalman, editor of Vatan (an opposition paper which is believed to be the organ of the Democrat Party) reflected this uneasiness when he hastened to the American Consulate General in Istanbul to apply for a visa to the United States.
5. At a workers' meeting held on 15 December in Besiktas the speakers clamored for the overthrow by violence of the government and recommended that they (the workers) appeal to Russia for support.

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CLASSIFICATION

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